

NEXSEN | PRUET

Robert D. Coble
Member
Admitted in SC

February 3, 2021

Ms. Jocelyn Boyd
Chief Clerk and Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia SC 29210

Re: Application of Cathect Communications, Incorporated for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Resold and Facilities-Based Local Exchange Access and Interexchange Telecommunications Services in the State of South Carolina, and for Alternative and Flexible Regulation
Docket No. 2020-293-C

Dear Ms, Boyd:

Please find enclosed for filing on behalf of Cathect Communications, Incorporated the Prefiled Testimony of Ishrat Jahan in the above-referenced docket. By copy of this letter and Certificate of Service we are serving a copy of the same with all counsel of record via electronic mail.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Coble

Charleston

Charlotte

Columbia

Greensboro

Greenville

Hilton Head

Myrtle Beach

Raleigh

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

DOCKET NO. 2020-293- C

**Application of Cathect Communications,)
Incorporated for a Certificate of Public)
Convenience and Necessity to Provide)
Resold and Facilities-Based Local)
Exchange, Exchange Access and)
Interexchange Telecommunications)
Services in the State of South)
Carolina, and for Alternative and for)
Flexible Regulation)
_____)**

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF ISHRAT JAHAN**

1 Q. Please state your name, business address and telephone number.

2 **A. My name is Ishrat Jahan. My business address is 2160 Lexington Ln., Cummings, GA 30040.**

3 **I can be reached by telephone at 678-698-7475, email ishrat@cathectc.com**

4 Q. What is your position with Cathect Communications Inc.?

5 **A. I am CEO of Cathect Communications Inc.**

6 Q. Please describe your educational background and professional experience.

7 **A. I received a Master's degree in Business Administration from Alkhair University Rawalpindi**

8 **Pakistan in 1974. I worked with Pakistan Services Limited (owners and operators of Pearl**

9 **Continental and Marriott Hotels) as Manager Administration. I was Director Sales and**

10 **Marketing, January 2005-2014 T-Mobile and Metro PCS. I reviewed the latest trends and**

11 **technologies and ensured its application in systems. I was a consultant to several**

12 **telecommunication, software development and professional services companies on content**

13 **and product support strategies, vertical market development, business partnership deal**

14 **structures and customer acquisition.**

15 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

1 **A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe services that Cathect Communications Inc.**
2 **proposes to offer in South Carolina and to review issues related to its request for a license to**
3 **provide such services. My testimony specifically relates to Cathect Communications Inc.’s**
4 **managerial, financial, and technical competence to provide the telecommunications services**
5 **for which authority is requested, and its compliance with the rules and policies of this**
6 **Commission.**

7 **Q. Please describe the authority that Cathect Communications Inc. seeks from the Commission.**

8 **A. Cathect Communications Inc. seeks to obtain competitive local exchange carrier (“CLEC”)**
9 **license of offering resale local exchange telecommunications services in all incumbent local**
10 **exchange carriers’ service territories throughout the state of South Carolina. At this time,**
11 **Cathect Communications Inc. does not seek to terminate any exemption held by a rural**
12 **telephone company pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(f).**

13 **Q. Has Cathect Communications Inc. been authorized to provide such service in any other**
14 **jurisdictions?**

15 **A. Yes, Cathect Communications Inc. is currently licensed in Texas. Nevada and Georgia.**

16 **Q. Please describe the corporate structure of Cathect Communications Inc.**

17 **A. Applicant’s legal name is Cathect Communications Inc. and was formed in Georgia on April**
18 **3, 2020 under the laws of Georgia.**

19 **Q. Is Cathect Communications Inc. legally authorized to do business in South Carolina?**

20 **A. Yes. Cathect Communications Inc. is a foreign limited liability company registered in South**
21 **Carolina in July 2020. A certified copy of Cathect Communications Inc.’s Certificate of**
22 **Authority to Transact Business in South Carolina is attached to the application as Exhibit A.**

23 **Q. Please address Cathect Communications Inc.’s managerial and technical qualifications.**

1 **A. Cathect Communications Inc. possesses the managerial qualifications to provide its proposed**
2 **local exchange telecommunications services. The senior management of Cathect**
3 **Communications Inc. has extensive experience in telecommunications service provision, and**
4 **its highly-qualified technical staff will ensure that Cathect Communications Inc.'s operations**
5 **will meet high standards for service quality and reliability. Description of the**
6 **telecommunications and managerial experience of Cathect Communications Inc.'s key**
7 **personnel, who have extensive management and technical experience, are provided to the**
8 **Commission with the Application as Exhibit C.**

9 **Q. Please describe Cathect Communications Inc.'s financial qualifications.**

10 **A. As explained in its Application, Cathect Communications Inc. possesses the financial**
11 **qualifications necessary to conduct its telecommunications operations. Financial information**
12 **of Cathect Communications Inc.'s being provided under seal as Confidential Exhibit B to the**
13 **Application.**

14 **Q. Please describe the types of services that Cathect Communications Inc. will offer in South Carolina.**

15 **A. Cathect Communications Inc. initially plans to offer local exchange service to residential**
16 **customers and business customers in South Carolina. Facilities- based local exchange service**
17 **will be provided via (1) Cathect Communications Inc.'s own facilities, (2) commercial**
18 **wholesale agreements with incumbents, or (3) a combination thereof. Cathect**
19 **Communications Inc. will provide basic and enhanced services with its own high-tech fiber**
20 **networks. The Resale regulated and unregulated services will include, but not be limited to,**
21 **local exchange and extended area service, toll restriction, call management features, Caller**
22 **ID services, telephone number porting, E-911 emergency services, operator services, private**
23 **line and special access services, broadband services and transport services. Through its**
24 **interconnection arrangements with incumbent local exchange carriers, Cathect**
25 **Communications Inc. will offer 911/E911 Emergency Services, the South Carolina Relay**

1 **Service, free blocking for 900/976 type services, and white page directory listing services.**
2 **Through third-party providers, Cathect Communications Inc. will provide directory**
3 **assistance, operator assisted calling, toll-free calling, and operator services.**

4 Q. What facilities will Cathect Communications Inc. use to provide its proposed local exchange
5 services?

6 **A. Cathect Communications Inc. will provide telecommunications services in the State of South**
7 **Carolina through a combination of its own facilities and facilities leased from other carriers.**

8 Q. What geographic areas will Cathect Communications Inc. serve?

9 **A. Cathect Communications Inc. seeks authority to provide telecommunications service**
10 **throughout the State of South Carolina. At this time, Cathect Communications Inc. does not**
11 **seek to terminate any exemption held by a rural telephone company pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §**
12 **251(f). Cathect Communications Inc.'s local calling areas will be identical to the Commission**
13 **approved local calling areas as documented in these incumbent carriers' local tariffs.**

14 Q. Will Cathect Communications Inc. offer service to all consumers within its service area?

15 **A. Yes. Cathect Communications Inc. will be prepared to serve customers in its service area to**
16 **the extent that it is required, and to the extent that it has facilities available to provide such**
17 **service to the public.**

18 Q. Does Cathect Communications Inc. agree to abide by all rules, regulations, policies and orders of
19 this commission, and the laws of the state of South Carolina, in its provision of telecommunications
20 service?

21 **A. Yes. Cathect Communications Inc. agrees to abide by all rules and regulations that are**
22 **deemed to be applicable to Cathect Communications Inc. Cathect Communications Inc. also**

1 **agrees to abide by all 911 requirements at such time as Cathect Communications Inc. begins**
2 **to provide local exchange services.**

3 Q. When will Cathect Communications Inc. commence providing services?

4 **A. Cathect Communications Inc. plans to deploy and provide local exchange service in South**
5 **Carolina shortly after this Commission grants its license.**

6 Q. Please describe the public interest benefits associated with Cathect Communications Inc. proposed
7 offering of telecommunications services in South Carolina.

8 **A. Both the South Carolina legislature and the United States Congress, through the**
9 **Communications Act of 1934, as amended (“Federal Act”), have determined that it is in the**
10 **public interest to promote competition in the provision of telecommunications services. The**
11 **Federal Act was designed to promote increased competition in the telecommunications**
12 **market. Moreover, the Commission has already determined that the grant of applications for**
13 **competing licenses to provide telecommunications service is in the public interest. The grant**
14 **of Cathect Communications Inc.’s Application will further the public interest by expanding**
15 **the availability of alternative sources of telecommunications services in the State of South**
16 **Carolina. Cathect Communications Inc.’s proposed services will provide multiple public**
17 **benefits by providing users of telecommunications services with enhanced and emerging**
18 **technologies. In addition, increased competition will create incentives for lower prices, more**
19 **innovative services, and more responsive customer service.**

20 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

21 **A. Yes.**

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

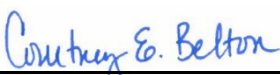
This is to certify that I, Courtney E. Belton, have this date served one (1) copy of the **Prefiled Testimony of Ishrat Jahan** in the above-referenced matter to the person(s) named below by causing said copy to be electronically mailed, addressed as shown below:

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Courtney E. Belton

February 3, 2021
Columbia, South Carolina